What is claimed:

- 1. A system for facilitating commerce in an industry marketplace comprising a community of participants in a target industry comprising:
 - a computer network;
 - a market segment within the industry;
 - a database for information relevant to the industry or to the market segment accessible via the computer network, the database comprising at least one of the following: data, a value-added service; a commerce service; and an interface, wherein the interface provides access to the information.
- 2. The system of claim 1, wherein said computer network comprise a wide area network..
- 3. The system of claim 1, wherein said community comprises a "virtual" community.
- 4. The system of claim 3, wherein said virtual community is implemented as a site on the world wide web.
- 5. The system of claim 1, wherein said community comprises a single market segment within a single industry.
- 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the scope, make-up and size of said community vary depending on the make-up, size and scope of the market segment.
- 7. The system of claim 1, wherein said community fluctuates as the make-up, size and scope of said market segment fluctuates.
- 8. The system of claim 1 further wherein said comprising one or more users.

- 9. The system of claim 1, wherein said community of participants comprises one or more of the following: users and/or suppliers of shipping and logistics services, operations and products.
- 10. The system of claim 1, wherein said community of participants comprises members of distinct levels.
- 11. The system of claim 10, wherein said distinct levels are membership levels structured to meet needs of users and suppliers in a target industry supply chain.
- 12. The system of claim 10, wherein said members comprise one or more of the following:

an equity member;

- a commission based member;
- a transaction user member; and
- a referral member.
- 13. The system of claim 1, wherein said community of participants comprises one or more providers of shipping, logistics, and/or operations services and/or products.
- 14. The system of claim 13, wherein said services, operations and products comprise one or more of the following:

logistics operations execution;

logistics network optimization;

logistics compliance management; and

logistics procurement functionality.

- 15. The system of claim 1, further comprising systems and methods for receipt of one or more types or revenue.
- 16. The system of claim 15, said types of revenue comprise one or more of the following:

transaction fees;

commission revenues;

subscription fees; and

referral fees.

- 17. The system of claim 1, wherein said community of participants comprises one or more virtual fourth party shipping and logistics providers.
- 18. The system of claim 1, wherein said system includes a logistics software infrastructure.
- 19. The system of claim 1, further comprising systems and methods able to leverage one or more of the following supply chain components:

procurement;

distribution;

warehousing;

reverse logistics; and

logistics costs.

20. The system of claim 1, further comprising one or more of the following capabilities:

logistics domain expertise; and

logistics operations execution capabilities.

21. The system of claim 1, further comprising one or more of the following capabilities:

content/value-added services; and commerce enabling services.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein said content/value-added services comprise one or more of the following:

supply-chain-wide communication and integration;

access to "live" status on actions occurring in the supply-chain;

products and services information;

pricing and availability information;

analysis of historical data;

access to and preparation of specialized reports;

Material Safety Data Sheets;

information relating to HSE services policies;

market information;

business intelligence reports;

training and education;

internal and external compliance audits and reports; and

industry news and information.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein said commerce enabling services comprise one or more of the following services, said services providing for:

multi-vendor shipping and/or logistics products, operations and/or services;

catalogues

storefronts;

an eCatalogue hub;

a liquid exchange for high volume logistics products, services and/or operations;

customer-specific pricing functionality;

request for quotation (RFQ) functionality for infrequent or single instance purchases;

eVendor managed inventory systems connectivity for reduction in transaction costs;

surplus auction capabilities;

company business rule customization;

intelligent agents; and

shipping, transportation, storage and warehousing information.

- 24. The system of claim 21, wherein said commerce enabling services comprise a service offering or package.
- 25. The system of claim 24, wherein said service offering or package comprises a service offering or package developed from user needs; and including one or more of the following:

single point systems to systems integration;

electronic multi-vendor managed inventory; and time saving applications.

- 26. The system of claim 24, wherein said commerce enabling services further comprises a marketplace for transactions among suppliers and users of shipping and logistics services, operations and products, said marketplace connecting suppliers with users desiring to purchase logistics services, operations and products.
- 27. The system of claim 16, wherein said marketplace further comprises an information database.
- 28. The system of claim 24, wherein said service offering or package comprises one or more of the following:

procurement and management of a global logistics network; operations performance of a logistics network; planning and optimization of logistics; global compliance; and logistics analysis and reporting.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein said procurement and management of a global logistics network comprises one or more of the following:

logistics service supplier procurement; and negotiation processes for transportation, facilities and services.

30. The system of claim 28, wherein said operations performance of a logistics network comprises one or more of the following:

selection of carriers for shipment(s);

arrangement and building of shipment(s);

tracing/expediting inbound and outbound shipment(s);

rate information/freight invoice(s) audit processing;

maintenance of freight rate table(s);

measurement of suppliers performance;

maintenance of transit standards;

processing of carrier claims;

answering customer complaints;

managing supplier relationships; and

auditing warehouse/terminal compliance.

31. The system of claim 28, wherein said planning and optimization of logistics comprises one or more of the following:

logistics network optimization;
determination of logistics equipment/asset requirements;
customer focused logistics solutions; and
customer visits.

32. The system of claim 28, wherein said global compliance comprises one or more of the following:

compliance with the distribution code; dangerous goods compliance; and distribution emergency response.

- 33. The system of claim 28, wherein said logistics analysis and reporting comprises data integrity and performance measurement.
- 34. A system for facilitating logistics in an industry marketplace comprising:
 - a plurality of trading partners;
 - a computer network;
 - a processor functionally connected to said computer network and operative to integrate the logistics data of said trading partners and provide the data in response to a request;
 - a database server functionally connected to said processor operative to store data from and provide data to said processor;
 - a network access device functionally connected to said processor and said network and operative to issue said request.
- 35. A system for facilitating logistics in an industry marketplace comprising: a computer network;
 - a network access device functionally connected to said computer network and operative to perform functionality comprising at least one of: present a graphical user interface and perform scheduled operations;
 - a web server functionally connected to said computer network and operative to provide a document in response to requests;
 - an application server functionally connected to said web server and operative to execute business logic and provide content to said web server for said provision of said document;

a database server functionally connected to said application server and operative to provide data to said application server;

an integration server functionally connected to said database server and operative to integrate data from disparate sources into a standard structured data format; a business-to-business server, functionally connected to said integration server and operative to exchange data with a business application, wherein said business application comprises at least one of: an electronic data interchange-based carrier, an XML-enabled application, a warehouse management system, an enterprise resource management system, and a customer relationship management system; and

a plurality of trading partners functionally connected to said business-to-business server.